

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /169 W

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R 222204Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3925

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 4633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, EMIN

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION RE ADECO VIEWS OF RELATIONS WITH US

REF: CARACAS 4603

1. SUBSEQUENT TO MY CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH MINISTER PEREZ GUERRERO AS REPORTED REFTEL, I HAD LUNCH WITH DR. RAFAEL CASTILLO WHO IN TURN WAS THE ONLY NON-POLITICIAN (SIC) AT A LUNCHEON LAST SATURDAY, MAY 18, WITH FORMER PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT ATTENDED BY SUCH PRESENT MANAGERS OF THE ADECO PARTY AS THE MINISTERS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LABOR PLUS THE NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, CANTV.
2. THE UPSHOT OF AN AFTERNOON OF PALAVER WAS A REAFFIRMATION ON THE PART OF THE ADECO LEADERSHIP TO ELIMINATE PAST WIDE-SPREAD CORRUPTION UNDER THE CALDERA ADMINISTRATION AND AGAIN AS PREVIOUSLY EMBASSY TELEGRAMS HAVE MADE CLEAR, TO EMBARK UPON AN INTELLIGENTLY CALCULATED PROGRAM FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME IN VENEZUELA.
3. IN THIS CONTEXT AND WITH REFERENCE TO MY CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH PEREZ GUERRERO, ROMULO BETANCOURT MADE EMPHATICALLY EVIDENT
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DESIRE AND NEED OF ADECO PARTY FOR A CONTINUING POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP

WITH THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE TOO OBVIOUS AND THEREFORE THE CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ GOVERNMENT MIGHT SAY THINGS IN PUBLIC FOR THE NATIONALISTIC RECORD WHICH IT WOULD NOT INTEND TO CARRY OUT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH US COMPANIES OR, FOR THAT MATTER, WITH USG.

4. I GOT THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT FROM BETANCOURT HIMSELF ASSURANCES WERE BEING GIVEN TO US THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD NO ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS BUT ON THE CONTRARY A FRIENDLY FEELING WHICH THEY INTEND TO EXPRESS IN TERMS OF CAREFUL MODULATION.
MCCLINTOCK

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